

**40****days of community**What on earth  
are *we* here for?

## Worshiping Together

We're Created to Worship Together

Every person worships someone, or something; in fact, the need to worship is inherent in man's nature. However, because we are made in the image of the God of the Bible, it is only when we authentically worship Him, that we find true fulfillment. We can engage in this kind of worship somewhat on our own; but its fullest expression will occur in the community of other believers. That's why we worship better together than alone—that is how we were created. This fits in with the kind of worship that God desires—the kind that is characterized by the Spirit and truth. When God's people gather in the name of Jesus to bow before Him in confession, praise, thanksgiving, and petition, and to celebrate His goodness through praise and singing, we experience the

Spirit and His truth better than when we worship in isolation. Such worship is to be done regularly—we are to set aside one day a week for rest and worship—with others. As we gather we must prepare ourselves for worship, purifying our hearts through repentance, restoring broken relationships, and recalling God's current goodness to us. Additionally, our corporate worship must focus on honoring God, not on meeting our own needs. Since this is contrary to our nature, true worship can only come through Jesus' help. It is through Him that we are able to offer ourselves to God, including our possessions, time, and devotion, and give Him praise and thanks. When we give back to God in this way, it af-



**Discovering God's purposes for our lives works better together**

firms that He alone is worthy, and that He is the true God in our lives. This occurs much more easily in the community of believers, as their testimonies point us to Him, and strengthen our faith. Their sacrifices of giving, time, devotion and praise encourage us to follow suit. Also, the accountability that others believers provide for us keeps us in the truth which is vital to genuine worship. We were created to worship better together than alone.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study Questions for Next Week

*(To be used as a companion to the “Better Together” devotional guide)*

Day 36—Read Leviticus 23:3. How well do you do at setting apart one day a week for worship and rest? What are your biggest hindrances and how could you eliminate them?

Day 37—Read 2 Chronicles 12:14. Of these 3 things that prepare us for worship—confessing sin to God, slowing down to focus on Him, and restoring a broken relationship—which do you need to do the most this week?

## Worshipping Together—Study Questions

Day 38—Read Acts 1:14. How can you make prayer a priority in your small group, and what can you personally do to become more involved in it? Why is this important?

Day 39—Read 1 Corinthians 16:2. Why do you think it is so important to God that we generously give our money to Him? What would it take for your motivation and faith to grow in this area?

Day 40—Read Ephesians 5:19. How much do you celebrate when you worship God? Why or why not?

Day 41—Make a list of all the good things God has done for you during the 40 Days of Community. Meditate on this list, and spend some time praising and thanking Him.

Day 42—Identify 3 or 4 specific changes in your life that started during 40 Days of Community. What will you do to continue these?

### Scripture to Remember

*“You have six days to do your work,  
but the seventh day of each week is  
holy because it belongs to Me.”*

*Leviticus 23:3 CEV*

### **Celebration Fellowship**

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

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### Life Group Questions—Serving Together

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Do consider yourself to be someone who works better alone, or on a team? Why do you think that is true?
2. Discuss why trust is so vital to relationships. Why are consistency, integrity and proximity all needed for trust, and which one do you need to work on the most?
3. What makes it hard sometimes for us to accommodate, or make room for, certain people. Why must we do this to develop our relationships and teamwork?
4. Talk about yourself in terms of ideas (rigid or flexible), personality (which of the 4 types), and faults. How can you accommodate people that are different from you?
5. Why does “speed” kill genuine caring for others? How can you change this in your life?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the sermon if there is time.